

*We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.*

*This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.*

*This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing*

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**Advent One      December 3, 2023**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In Advent, the Church is called to join again with the people of Israel, our ancestors in faith in waiting for Messiah.

We gather around the wreath, lighting a new candle each week as a sign of the growing light of God's promise among us and Messiah's come near.

They will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds'  
**with great power and glory.**

Then he will send out the angels,  
and gather his elect from the four winds,  
**from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.**

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle of the wreath.  
The candle of HOPE.

A sign of God's promised Messiah coming near.  
*The first candle is lit.*

**HYMN ELW 257 O COME, O COME EMMANUEL VERSE 1**

**O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

***Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

We await your promise O God,  
Of the One coming to bring light in our darkness  
Who reveals hope in our suffering  
Who proclaims to us Good News  
Stir us up to receive Messiah among us  
And prepare us to be your Advent people. **Amen.**

**ELW 435 LO, HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING**

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Now redemption long expected,  
Comes in solemn splendour near;  
All the saints this world rejected  
Thrill the trumpet sound to hear:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
See the day of God appear.**

**Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom as thine own:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign and thou alone!**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power Lord Christ and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**PEOPLE:**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**LEADER:**

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

**PEOPLE:**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MARK 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

**HYMN ELW 438 MY LORD WHAT A MORNING**

*Refrain:* My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
Oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God’s right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

You’ll hear the sinner cry,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God’s right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

You will hear the Christian shout . . .  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God’s right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, light from light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### **SINGING INTO PRAYER**

**ELW 256 COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE verse 1**

**Comfort, comfort now my people,  
tell of peace, so says our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over.  
God will reign in peace forever.**

## PRAYERS

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A Brief Silence*

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish.

May your wisdom rest upon the UN Climate Change Conference, COP 28, as the nations gather seeking to foster ways to sustain creation.

Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. We hold in our hearts Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Iran, India, and Sudan. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief especially Ingrid, Bryan, Tom, and all we name in our hearts.....

*Pause*

Deliver all in any need.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**Amen.**



## **SINGING INTO PEACE**

**ELW 256 COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE verse 3**

**Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.**

**Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.**

**For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's Word is never broken.**

## **PEACE AND OFFERING**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

## **MEAL**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Saviour of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

**Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

For the power of love in human life and history,  
we give thanks and praise.

Long ago our ancestors knew love's power  
and they became the tellers of love's tale.

Love bound them in covenant,

teaching them to live in community

with compassion and concern for the poorest among them.

Yet centuries of domination and violence  
shaped a different kind of community based on selfishness and inequality.  
In the struggle against oppression,  
Jesus became the face of love,  
showing us the way to abundant life.  
In word and deed, he announced love's new reign  
of justice, reconciliation, and peace.  
Filled with the courage and passion of love's spirit,  
he gave his life to challenge the unjust systems of this world.  
On the last night of his earthly life,  
as he shared a meal with his friends,  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his followers, saying:  
"Share this bread among you; this is my body which will be broken for justice.  
Do this to remember me."  
When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
"Share this wine among you; this is my blood which will be shed for liberation.  
Do this to remember me."  
God of love, spirit of compassion,  
bless us and this bread and wine.  
May this meal be food and drink for our journey—  
renewing, sustaining, and making us whole.  
When we eat this bread and drink from this cup  
we experience again the presence of Jesus in our midst.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY COMMUNION AND BLESSING

*Please come forward to the communion rail, receive the communion wafer in your hand from the pastor and the wine in an individual glass from the assisting minister.*

*Place your communion cup in the basket provided.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

May Christ, the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### HYMN ELW 260 THE KING SHALL COME

**The King shall come when morning dawns,  
And light triumphant breaks;  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills,  
And life to joy awakes.**

**Not as of old, a little child  
To bear, and fight, and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun,  
That lights the morning sky.**

**Oh, brighter than the rising morn,  
When Christ, victorious, rose,  
And left the lonesome place of death,  
Despite the rage of foes—**

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn,  
Shall dawn upon our race.  
The day when Christ in splendour comes,  
And we shall see his face.

The King shall come when morning dawns,  
And light and beauty brings:  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray,  
Come quickly, King of kings!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE